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Moultonborough

To The 20th Century

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Moultonborough

to the 20th Century

Compiled by
Helen Sturtevant Matthews

MOULTONBOROUGH

To The 20th Century

The passing of the glacier left this place which we now call Moultonborough with beautiful mountains and fertile valleys; with rivers, brooks, lakes, and clear-water springs; and with granite ledges, boulders, rocks and stones. In time the northern trees grew to stately forests, - tall pines, white birch, oaks, maples and many others; - all blending their many-shaded greens in summer and brilliant colors in the autumn. Scenic beauty has been, and is, one of Moultonborough's greatest charms. In early days this country offered opportunities for fishing, hunting and trapping. After the French and Indian Wars it offered to homesteaders timberland, fertile farms, clear-water springs, streams for their mills, and Lake Winnipesaukee for transportation.

There is no record of permanent Indian settlements here, but redmen roamed this country. Artifacts have been discovered which indicate that bands of Indians came regularly to fish at Geneva Point, at Greene's Basin and at Blackey's Cove, where the brook from Lake Kanasatka (earlier known as Long Pond) enters Winnipesaukee. Evidently those from the north came by canoe. Samuel Drake records in **The Heart of the White Mountains,** published in 1822, that there was

> *"a tree in Moultonborough standing near a carrying place between two ponds. On this tree was a representation of one of their (the Indians') expeditions. The number of killed and the prisoners were shown by crude drawings of human beings, the former distinguished by the mark of a knife across the throat".*

We may well believe that the streams and shores of Moultonborough were used by these warriors from the north and that Lake Winnipesaukee was an important staging area, where large forces assembled before forays to the south.

The first white men thoroughly to explore this district were probably hunters and trappers. Two such men were Israel and Abraham Glines, brothers, who came from Durham, New Hampshire, and explored even into the White Mountains. When they decided to settle down, they chose the spot at the base of Red Hill in southwestern Moultonborough where today the trail to the summit leaves the Red Hill Road. It was admirably suited to trapping because of easy access to small ponds and brooks, and had the advantage of a clear spring, - which still flows today. A log cabin was built near the spring, to which Israel Glines brought his family sometime before 1770. He is credited with having introduced apple trees to this district before the Revolution. Mount Israel in the Sandwich Range was named for him.

Several miles away near the bay in Winnipesaukee where the wharf in Center Harbor now stands, there was a family named Paine. Their log cabin beside Potash Brook must have been extended somehow, for they eventually had three sons and eleven daughters.

Undoubtedly, there were other lone cabins scattered over the countryside, for when in 1748 a syndicate was formed in Portsmouth to buy the claims to this section of New Hampshire, the papers mention the giving of quit-claims to people already granted land and living here. As early as 1629 there had been an application for a grant. However, real interest in the settling of this district was not aroused until after the Indian Wars. Perhaps the soldiers had discovered the attractions here, and undoubtedly people finally felt more secure against Indian attack.

Two hundred years ago, in 1763, there was granted to a group of 62 Masonian Proprietors six square miles of territory, - roughly the present town of Moultonborough. Their leader was Colonel Jonathan Moulton, who later became General in the Revolutionary War.

There is a story that Col. Jonathan Moulton with a small group of men and a large fierce dog came on a scouting expedition from Dover to Winnipesaukee. They crossed the lake on crude rafts and after numerous adventures came ashore near the place now known as Clark's Landing. There they encountered a band of six Indians, whom they killed with the aid of Col. Moulton's dog.

On later expeditions the entire district was surveyed, rangeways were established as the grant required, and the land between rangeways was divided into numbered lots. Rangeways, which were to be permanently town property, were often used for roads. The lots were assigned to the individual proprietors, either for their own use or for sale to settlers. Of the original sixty-two Proprietors only five settled here.

East Moultonborough

It was probably natural and inevitable that the first settlement in Moultonborough should be near the spot where Jonathan Moulton fought the Indians. A farm developed there owned by a family named Clark, from which the Landing evidently took its name. Gradually houses spread up the hill from the shore, and the settlement came to be known as Birch Hill. It was approximately one mile square, and was roughly what is now the land between Route 109, States Landing Road, Clarks Landing Road, and Lake Winnipesaukee. A very old record book states that a Stephen Sanborn arrived in Moultonborough with all his "famley"

in 1765. The first recorded birth on Birch Hill is that of Ruth Sanborn in 1793.

There was a school house about halfway up the hill with at various times from 35 to 60 pupils. Today there are only cellar-holes where the houses stood; but there are still several very deep wells, - one said to be 100 feet deep. These wells seem all to have been built by the same man, as they are identical, with openings about two feet across. They are still in excellent condition.

Below the eastern end of Birch Hill was the Herbert Hoit homestead, still standing at the corner where States Landing Road leads off Route 109. This house has a hiding-hole behind the large central chimney. It was said to have been used for refuge during Indian attacks. Since, however, it is like a small closet with shelves and completely dark, perhaps it was used only to hide precious possessions and food against Indian thievery. Another unusual feature of the house is that there are two very large flat-topped granite stones used for the hearth before the fireplace.

Toward the east from the Hoit house were a road and a lane leading to three farms owned by Caverley, Brown and Horne families. These farms are today part of the Bald Peak Colony, whose stone-posted gateway marks the old roadway.

Since mills were a necessity for settlers, there were many in early Moultonborough. Below Birch Hill to the west at a point near where Shannon Brook crosses Route 109, a dam was built with sluices connected to mills below the dam. These included grist, cider, clapboard and shingle mills. Bridges were built across the sluices and the section came to be known as Three Bridges.

Nathaniel Shannon, one of the original proprietors, owned and successfully operated the shingle mill, the foundation of which is still visible. He built a very fine house further along the road. Shannon Cemetery, toward the lake from the present Route 109, was in the field behind his house.

Nearby was Col. Jonathan Moulton's house and one where his mother, Hannah Moulton, lived. The latter was long and rambling and might have served as a refuge for more than one family. Col. Moulton included a small store in one room of his house.

Early roads were hardly more than trails, gradually widened and smoothed for carts. In 1770-1771 Gov. Wentworth had a road built from Wolfeborough to Hanover, in order that he might attend the first commencement of Dartmouth College, which he had heavily endowed. This

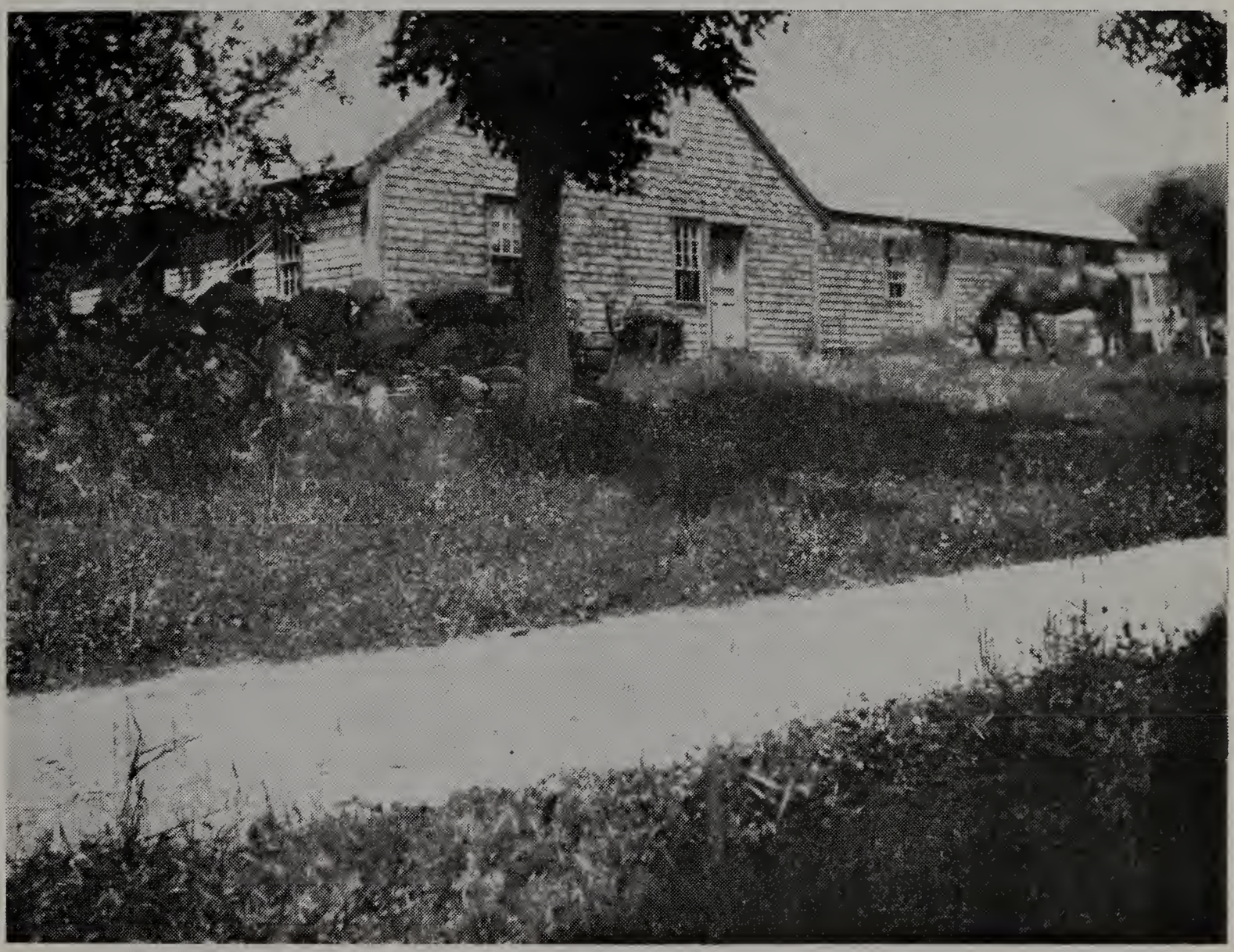
road followed the route of 109. In probability it was merely a clearing of trees to permit direct passage of horseback riders. As it was gradually improved and traffic became heavier, a tavern was built near the end of Birch Hill Road.

The settlement in the course of its development extended along the lake to the west and up Ossipee Mountain to the north.

The home of Bradbury Richardson built in 1770. Still standing on Severance Road.

Accompanying Col. Moulton on his earliest expeditions was Bradbury Richardson. He was born in 1737 in Massachusetts of English colonist parents, but became the foster son of Col. Moulton. Their explorations led them from the Birch Hill district toward Ossipee Mountain. Before reaching the mountains they found what Richardson later described as "a fine green valley with a beautiful mountain view". This he chose as his homestead, buying about 730 acres from the Proprietors. His house was finished in 1770 and is still standing; - a very sturdy and charming house with hand-hewn beams, fine finish-wood, three fireplaces, and with

Christian doors, so-called because the paneling forms a cross in the upper half of the door. Huge barns for the storage of hay attest that the valley did indeed prove to be very fertile. In fact the farms there supported several Richardson families. As each of Bradbury's sons married, Bradbury "gave him a parcel of land and raised a house for him". The nearby schoolhouse was said to have had at one time forty pupils, - all of them Richardsons. One of Bradbury's granddaughters married Samuel Severance, and from that time the homestead was known as the Severance Farm, and the road through the valley as Severance Road.

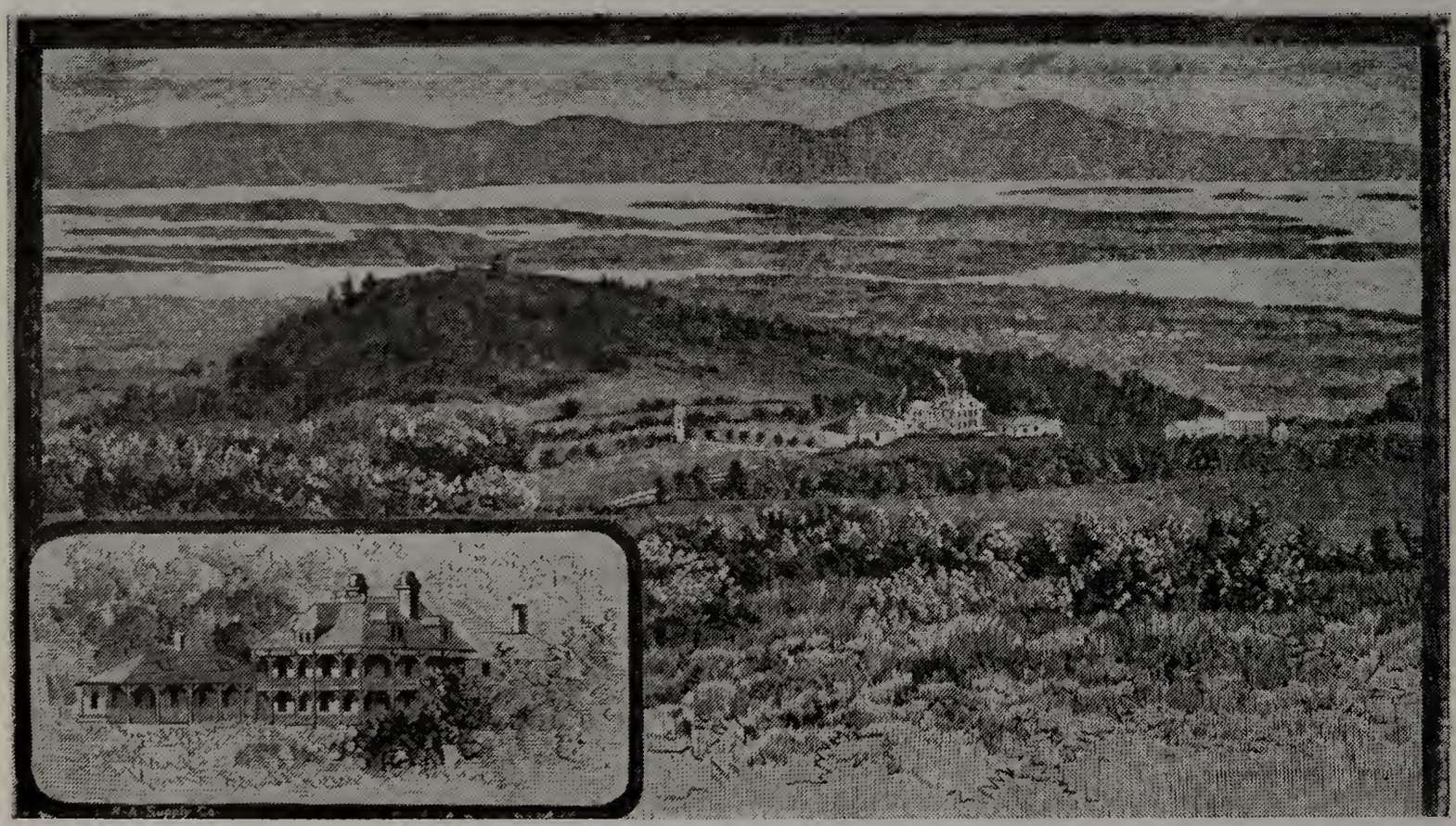


The Lee house in early settlement on Ossipee Mountain.

Several hardy pioneers went on beyond the valley and climbed high on Ossipee Mountain to settle in the section where the **Castle in the Clouds** now stands, some 700 feet above the lake. Among these were the Lee, the Roberts, the Horne, the Copp and Whitten families. Eventually there were six or eight homes in this mountain settlement. The little

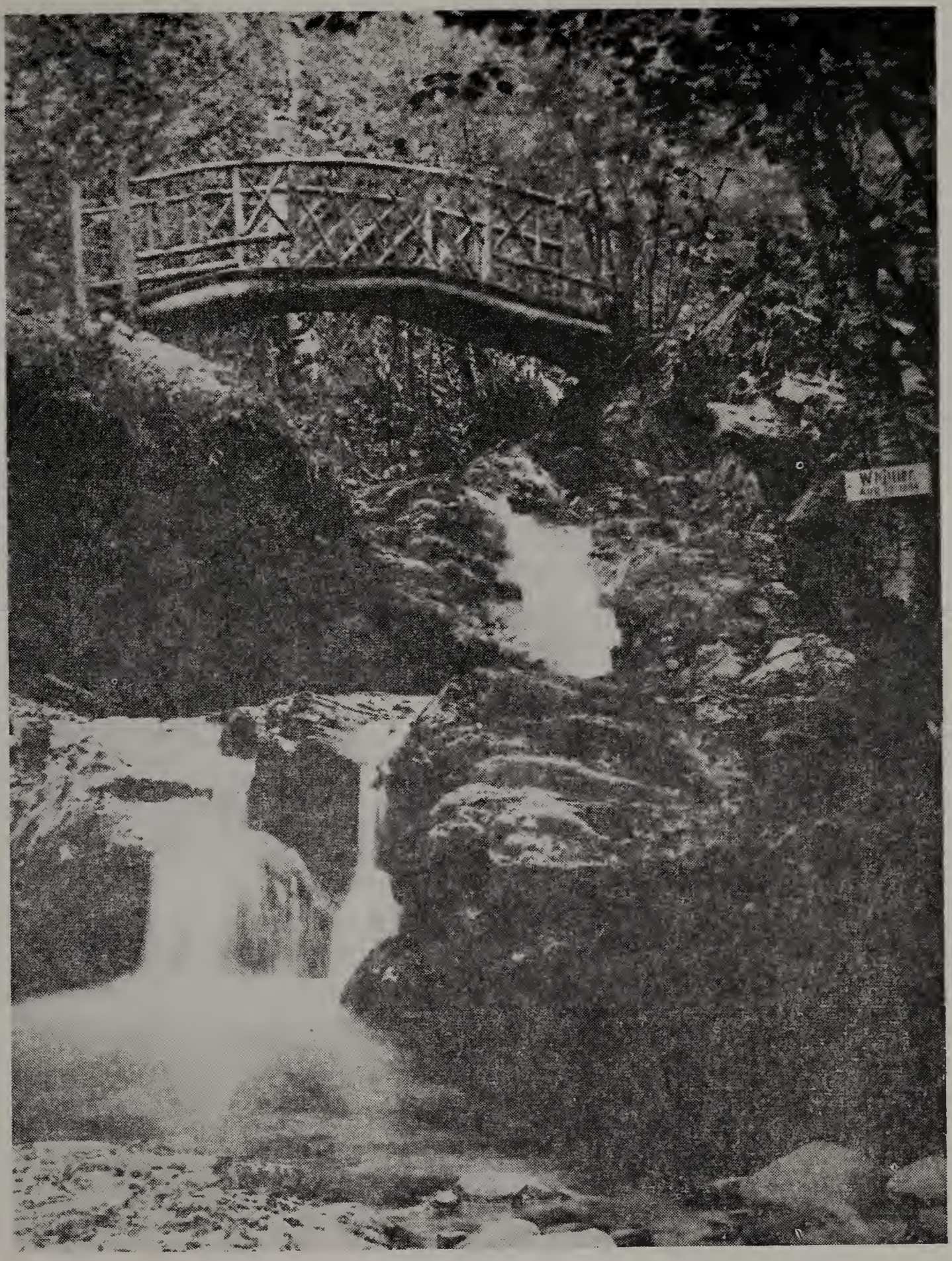
houses, usually with only two rooms, sufficed for large families of eight or ten or more. The Lee house, built in 1792 was larger. It had six rooms and an entry on the first floor, with two "open" rooms above, and two cellars below. Only two of the rooms were plastered and finished, the others being sided with boards from three to four feet wide. One window-sill was marked like a sundial with lines radiating from a large hour glass. This was the only method of telling time in the mountain settlement. In this house generation after generation of the Lee family lived for 121 years.

The children of the settlement walked down to the school beyond the Bradbury Richardson farm. At that time the land was cleared enough so that from the schoolhouse yard they could look back across the valley and see their homes high on the mountain.



Ossipee Mountain home of B. F. Shaw, who developed Ossipee Park. Note the Crow's Nest pavilion on peak where *Castle in the Clouds* now stands.

In 1879 Mr. B. F. Shaw purchased a tract of land at the Lee settlement and built a large residence of the Queen Ann type. Fully appreciating the scenic beauty of the spot, he developed it into Ossipee Park. There was a mile-long path which could be followed up the brook which was crossed twelve times by rustic bridges. Benches furnished resting spots



Cascade and Rustic Bridge in Ossipee Park

where could be viewed in comfort the beautiful cascades and the famous series of waterfalls. The brook has as its source a boiling spring which is 16 feet across and sometimes throws water 2 feet above the surface. Mr. Shaw also built the Crow's Nest, - a pavilion on the peak where the Castle now stands, in order that his guests might enjoy the wonderful view of Winnipesaukee. At first Ossipee Park was open to anyone interested. People came in crowds, - by horse-drawn barges, carryalls, and buggies. Finally, to protect his property, Mr. Shaw charged an admission fee of 25c per person. Many famous people visited the Park, and Whittier, Lucy Larcom, and other poets wrote of its beauties.

Mr. Shaw had a first class road constructed up the mountain to his residence, and he also built a road to the highest peak (then called Black Snout) with a path to the summit, which is just 3000 feet above the sea. At a Town Meeting in 1882 this peak was given officially the name of Mt. Shaw.

After Mr. Shaw's death in 1890 his residence was operated as a boarding house by Mrs. E. F. Pettingill. It could accommodate 35 guests. One of its many advertised attractions was "no mosquitoes".

All that is left now of this early mountain-settlement are three family cemeteries, that of the Lees in excellent condition and surrounded by a stone wall. Throughout Moultonborough there are over thirty such family cemeteries. The families on Ossipee Mountain were ruthlessly forced to sell their farms when Mr. Thomas Plant decided to own the property in 1911. He tore down or burned all buildings, leveled the peak where the Crow's Nest stood, and built there his fabulous house which is now the Castle in the Clouds. This story, however, belongs not in the earliest settlement, but in the annals of the 20th century.

In the 1800's there were other fertile farms around the base of the mountain. The MacDonald farm lies just above the Richardson valley. To the west in the Bodge Hill section were the Evans, the Randall, the Glidden and the Ben Berry farms each of which gave its name to the road leading to it. The Glidden farm was originally owned by a religious sect which used the brook there both for baptism and to power a wood-turning mill, which produced such small items as shoe-pegs and house-pegs. Below the Ben Berry Road was the homestead of the Goss family for whom the sharp angle in the present Route 109 was named; - Goss Corner. An early one-room schoolhouse stood there. Between Goss Corner and the section where the Shannon cemetery lies, there was, and is still, a house known as the John H. Moulton home, which is one of the oldest houses in Moultonborough. It was built by a John Moulton, born 1731, one of the original grantees, who may have been Col. Moulton's younger

brother. After the death of John Moulton the house was occupied by his son, John S. Moulton. His son, John H. Moulton, was born there in 1817, and lived there until his death sometime after 1889. His daughter, Hattie, who lived to be an old lady, was the last Moulton living there. However, the present owner says that the house is still listed in town records as the Estate of John H. Moulton.

Further toward Melvin and on the other side of the road is a house in which Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Goodwin lived. At intervals Mr. Goodwin toured the area hereabouts with a tin-pedlar's cart, selling cooking utensils, pails, wooden bowls, buckets, and other useful sundries. Beside his house was a small outbuilding which he used as a store, selling molasses, kerosene and a few dry staples. After his death his son, Ralph, continued to live there and to carry on his father's business, until, after the turn of the century, he moved to Moultonborough Corner, where he owned and operated the old country store. The Goodwin pedlar's cart is on exhibit before this store today.

Beyond the Goodwin house were several prosperous farms, one of which was owned by the Ambrose family. This homestead, later a boarding house, is still standing. A schoolhouse was built on their land and known as the Ambrose school. It was later made over into a dwelling house, which is still in use.

From just beyond this point the land toward Lake Winnipesaukee and to the west of Clark's Landing was part of the earliest settlement with several small farms. The deed to the Batchelder Brown place is dated 1783. The youngest child of Batchelder Brown and his wife Abegail was Lyman Brown. The family having outgrown the original house, Lyman built a house across the road, which is still standing today. He built it of bricks made from clay found on his own farm. Near the brook can still be seen the foundation of the kiln in which the bricks were dried. More of these bricks were used to build a house further along and on the opposite side of the road for Nathan Lee about 1845. Later this became the Charles Whitehouse home, and is still standing.

Lyman Brown married Lucy Lee, the daughter of David Lee, who is thought to have been the original owner of Lee's Mills, one of the largest and most productive industries of the time. His sons, Nathan and Edward Lee, are known to have operated it. The old mill was built on a waterway connecting what was then called Upper Pond with Lake Winnipesaukee. The Lee family sold the mill to Adams, who built the dam in Red Hill River. There was a sluiceway under the mill, and two flumes, two six-foot wheels and a sixty-two inch saw. At one time as many as seventy-five men worked there. This was a saw and shingle mill where

also barrel staves were made for the nearby cooper's shop. On the 1860 map are marked at this point: - **Landing for Steamer Red Hill, Freight House** and **Passenger Station**. The Red Hill Steamer which was built at Lee's Mills and ran to Alton Bay, was said to look like a scow. Just after the turn of the century the mill was sold to the Lampreys.

A scene at Lee's Mill with Ossipee Mountain in the background.

Lee's Mills Wharf was also a logging headquarters. Often the entire bay would be a field of floating logs from shore to shore held together by large booms. As soon as the ice broke up in the spring, little steamers, many with barges alongside, would tow the huge rafts of logs to Wolfeborough, Alton Bay, Lakeport or Meredith. It was a slow trip. Often wind caused the steamers with their tow to seek the nearest cover. They sometimes waited for days behind an island for the wind to subside. During summer the barges were used to transport passengers to Lakeport for a day's shopping, or to Alton Bay for the Advent Camp Meeting, or to the Weirs to attend Governors Day at the Soldiers' Reunion.

Such gaities formed a welcome relief from the arduous task of pioneer living. However, neither work nor play was permitted to interfere with divine worship. The first church in East Moultonborough was

blown down by a severe gale. In 1779, the land at the corner where today Route 109 turns sharply away from the Mountain Road was set aside for the use of the first settled minister. Here the second church was built beside the cemetery that is still there. Near the brook beyond this cemetery can be traced the foundation of the first parsonage. The Reverend Jeremiah Shaw, a Harvard graduate, was called here in 1779. He preached in this Congregational Church for twenty-five years. On record in the New England General Register are more than six hundred marriages which he performed. In 1833, seven years before his death, he deeded the property of 100 acres to his son, Jeremiah, Jr. The old parsonage burned in 1844, and it was about that time that the church building was sold to Adventists and moved to Melvin Village.

The Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. house as it looks today. It was built about 1845 on the property formerly owned by Rev. Jeremiah Shaw, the first settled minister in Moultonborough.

Jeremiah Shaw, Jr., built the house which is standing at this corner today. It was used as a tavern, and the space in it now occupied by a bathroom was a United States Postoffice.

Thus this section between Winnipesaukee Lake and the top of Ossipee Mountain had farms, mills, schoolhouses, a store-of-sorts, two taverns, a church and a postoffice. It was the first "center" of Moultonborough.

Southwestern Moultonborough

During the time that East Moultonborough was growing, there were early settlers in other parts of Moultonborough.

After the first surveying the Proprietors were dissatisfied with their grant, saying that too large a part of it was mountain, swamp or lake. Col. Moulton took care of that. In the **History of Carroll County** the story is told that he

> *"hoisted a British flag upon the horns of an enormous ox weighing 1,400 lbs., which he had fattened for the purpose, and with fife and drum accompaniment and a great parade, drove it to Portsmouth as a present for the Governor. He refused all compensation, but as a slight token of esteem from so dear a friend, he would accept a charter of a small gore of land he had discovered adjoining Moultonborough. The Governor pleasantly had the grant issued. It conveyed to the wily general 26,972 acres of land, now comprising the towns of New Hampton and Center Harbor."*

Although this story varies in detail in early publications, it is in Portsmouth official records that in 1765 Gov. Benning Wentworth granted to Colonel Moulton the above-mentioned land which was known as the Moultonborough Addition. He also owned thirty-one shares, or over half of the original grant. Much of his land he sold to settlers, but some shares went to members of his family. He had several brothers. Moreover, he was married twice and had sixteen children. His sons Benning and Joseph are known to have settled here. We may assume that other members of the family did likewise. An Ezekiel Moulton with seven in his family was living here in 1771 and is said to have been one of the settlers who came in 1764. By the time that the 1860 map was made, there were thirteen houses in which Moulton families were living.

Moultonborough Addition was incorporated as New Hampton in 1777 and two years later a division was made for the incorporation of the town of Center Harbor.

In 1770 there were twenty-four families listed in Moultonborough, four of which were just across the line in the Addition. Prominent among these four families were the Senters, whose land holdings carried into the original Moultonborough grant.

According to the schedule of the settlers Lieutenant Joseph Senter—

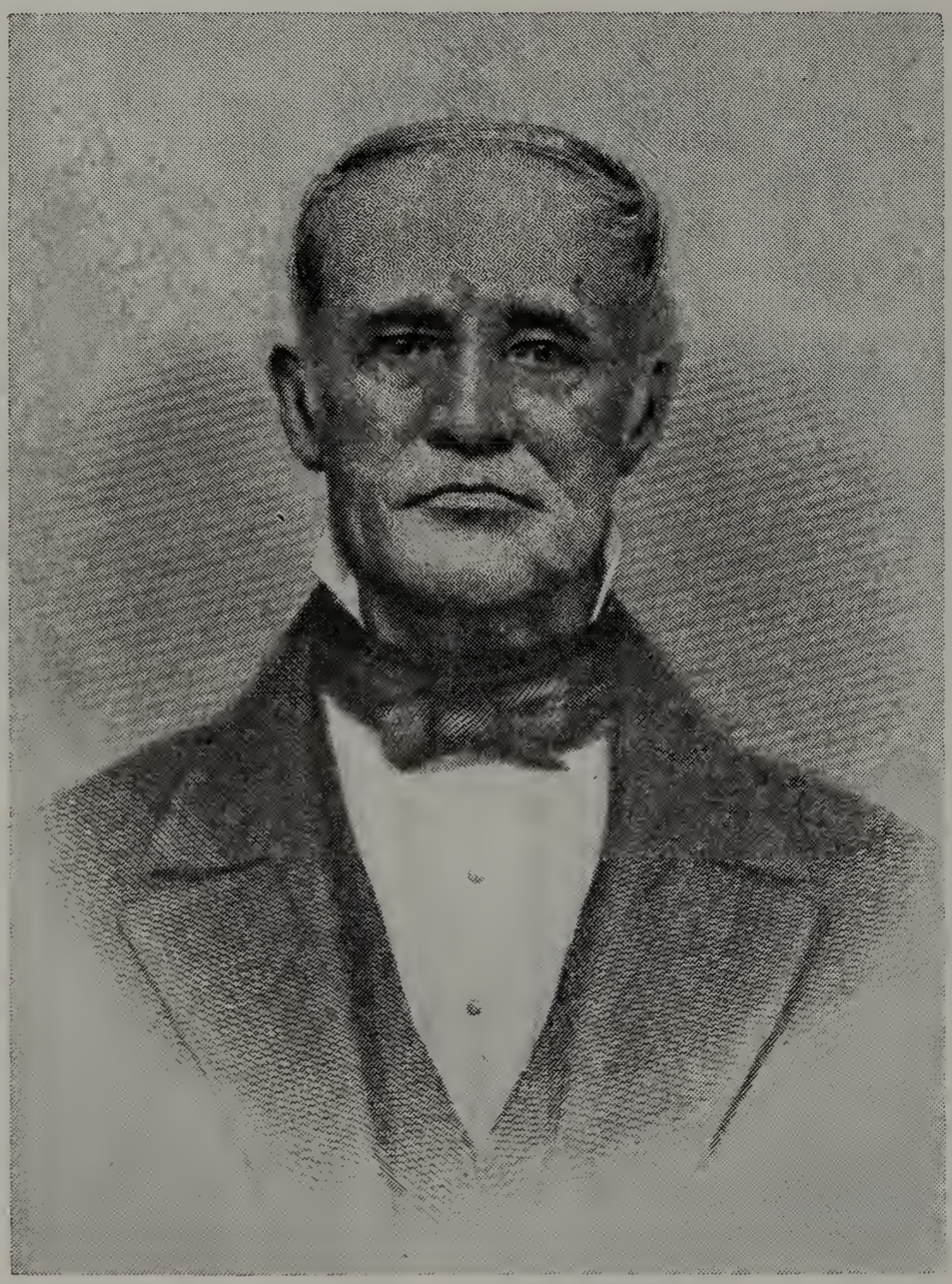
"had in Moultonborough 8 acres in grass and 2 in tillage; and in Moultonborough Addition he had 9 in his family, 1 house, 2 barns, 14 acres in grass, and 9 in tillage".

In the act providing for the Governor Wentworth Road to Dartmouth College, Joseph Senter was named one of the committee on location. Moses Senter is said to have named Red Hill because of its predominant autumn color caused by its many maple trees and blueberry bushes. In 1793, the Senters owned the mill at Long Pond, which on earliest maps

Home of Isaac and Charlotte Graves, picture painted in about 1870 in water-color by a "paying guest" in house across the road owned by Arnold and Jennie Graves. Latter house is still standing on Lake Shore Drive, but only lilacs mark the site of the little red house.

of this section was named Red Hill Pond, and is now known as Lake Kanasatka. Before 1800, there was between the mill and the Addition, only one small house. Probably it was the one on the Skinner Farm, which was

purchased shortly thereafter by Jacob Graves and his wife Charlotte (Morrill). First Neck, or The Point (now Alpine Park) is named Graves' Point on early maps.



Honorable Benning M. Bean
in State and Federal governments from 1815 to 1835.

Other houses further west were those of the Beans and Sturtevants. The Bean homestead gave its name to Bean Road, which roughly marks the boundary of the Addition. In this house, still standing, was born the Hon. Benning Moulton Bean, who was elected to represent this district in the New Hampshire Legislature in 1815. For eighteen years, he continued to serve in the Concord House and Senate, and then was sent to Washing-

ton by his constituents for four years in Congress. His retirement years were spent at the homestead on Bean Road. He died at eighty-four years of age and is buried in the Bean Cemetery. The land of that cemetery was originally part of his father's farm.

Benning Bean's daughter, Hannah Jane, married Josiah Cotton Sturtevant, Jr., a grandson of Hosea Sturtevant, who in 1783 came to New Hampshire as a homesteader. Although at that time only twenty-one years old, Hosea was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and was seeking property under the Veteran Land Grant Law. Between Bean Road and Squam Lake (named Cusumpy Pond on earliest maps, then Squam Lake in the 1800's, and only recently spelled Asquam) was a heavy growth of timber with one exceptionally tall pine. Hosea is said to have climbed this tallest tree. Below him he could see only tree tops, extending in all directions, with the lone sign of habitation being a wisp of smoke near Red Hill, which he later discovered came from Israel Glines' cabin. The tract of land around that pine was Hosea's choice for the original homestead of the Sturtevant family. For years the tall tree was known as the Sturtevant Pine, and was used as a landmark for navigating on Winnipesaukee, since its top stood high above all other trees until it was partially destroyed by lightning. Church Sturtevant, Hosea's father, brought his family from Halifax, Massachusetts, in 1784. Church Sturtevant and his six sons cleared and occupied six farms, three of which were in Moultonborough and three in the part of the Addition which later became Center Harbor. How many trees were felled, stumps pulled, rocks dragged and piled into stone walls, to clear six farms, we can only guess; but we know that the work was done with only the aid of oxen and horses, and strong arms. Yet fields were cleared, sections were cultivated, pasturage was provided for sheep and cattle. There is shown on early maps Sturtevant Island in Lake Squam to which the farmers used to swim their cattle for summer forage.

The only one of the six farms still carrying the family name is at the base of Red Hill, where the trail to the summit leaves Red Hill Road. The original house and barns were destroyed by fire caused by lightning in 1898. Nearby the present house, built after the fire, is another house of early origin. It has indications of having been built around a log cabin, - possibly that of Israel Glines, the pioneer trapper. At one time J. Hugh Kelsea lived there, and later Lewis Sibley, who was a stone mason and built the stone horse-watering trough around the Glines spring.

Since Moultonborough abounds in hard maples, there are many fine groves throughout the town. One was located here with an ideal southwestern exposure and the protection of Red Hill to the north and

east. The settlers learned of using maple sap from the Indians and rapidly improved the method of producing syrup and sugar. In the early 1800's Herbert Sturtevant (later with his son-in-law, Lewis Sibley) was producing maple products on a commercial scale, the "sugaring buildings" being to the rear of the houses.

There was another large maple grove half way up Red Hill. There at the saddle between the peaks, Jonathan and Eliza Cook built their house about 1788. Evidently there were other houses, as earliest references mention this as the Cook settlement, and several cellar-holes can still be found. Existence there must have been precarious and lonely in the earliest years. A very old newspaper clipping speaks of wolves howling from peak to peak, and wild-cats screaming in the night. After 1820, when the procession of people climbing Red Hill began, the Cooks expanded their farming livelihood with "cash money" earned by serving refreshments to the climbers. There is in existence an old album which their guests signed, many adding comments about the Cooks and reflections on the scenic beauties of the ascent.

In his book **The Heart of the White Mountains**, published in 1822, Samuel Adams Drake tells of his experience:

> *"a carriage-road ascends within a mile of the summit — After a little promenade of two hours or two hours and a half, I reached the summit from which a tattered signal-flag fluttered in the breeze."*

Often these early ascents were made by horse-back. In the Cook Guest Album, a Mr. Wood wrote in 1834:

> *"Ladies may ascend, with safety; should they ascend on horseback, it would be well to descend on foot, their horses will be able to descend without assistance, never mistaking the path laid out for them."*

The following year Betsy Blake wrote:

> *"....ascended Red Hill on horseback and descended the same on foot without assistance of any gent."*

That was indeed a feat at that time, when ladies, riding side-saddle, wore long voluminous skirts and big hats with flowing veils.

Thousands of people have ascended Red Hill. The summit of the northern peak is 2,029 feet above the sea, and affords a magnificent view of the many lakes and mountains in this region. Not only have adventure-seekers and beauty-lovers been attracted to the Hill, but also scientists. It has long been famous among geologists because of the occurence of the unusual rock nephreline-sodalite syenite. Specimens from here may

Party ascending Red Hill, picture taken in 1858
from Cook carriage road half-way up mountain.

be seen in laboratories throughout the world. The movement of the glacier 25,000 years ago has been traced by fragments of syenite which it carried southeastward from Red Hill for some twenty miles into Maine. Today this rock is best exposed at the Horne quarry, two shallow pits from which disintegrated rock was dug years ago for roads. This quarry is somewhat south of the spot where the trail to the summit leaves the old carriage-road to the saddle.

As the upward trail begins one can trace the cellar-hole of the house that Ebenezer, or Eben, Horne and his wife, Annie (Garland), built in 1828. A clipping from a newspaper printed in the 1880's describes life hereabouts some fifty years before that. It includes the following paragraph:

> *"Of the notable personages of those days, Eben Horne was one. He was a great Mathematician, and lived half way up Red Hill. With scarcely no education, he was able to perform mathematical questions in his head that would puzzle the schoolmasters to do with slate and pencil. Everything that he once heard relating to mathematics he always remembered. So great was his desire to learn, that he actually attended school one term after he was sixty years old. Dudley Leavitt, the almanac maker, was the teacher."*

On Red Hill near Cook Settlement. Home of Eben and Annie Horne - built 1828. Later occupied by their son Charles and his family. House left unoccupied after 1898. Ruins removed after a cow, lost for days, was found in cellar.

The Horne children and those of the Cook settlement in the earliest years went down the hill to a little schoolhouse near the spring beside the Sibley house. Charles Horne is reported to have been the envy of all because in snow-time he could coast down from his home to the door of the school. In later years the children walked to a schoolhouse on the Bean Road; - down the steep hillside, through fields and pastures, climbing stonewalls and fences between farms, - a three-mile round trip. Nevertheless, old school records show that some of them had perfect attendance.

Three generations of Hornes lived on the Hill. Members of the Cook family were living there throughout a hundred years. In 1898, the last family moved down to the lowlands, the houses were left to disintegrate, and the fields were roamed by wide-horned cattle, driven up there for pasturage by Moultonborough farmers.

Below Red Hill to the west are a series of ponds between Winnipesaukee and Squam Lake; - Long Pond (now called Kanasatka), Round

Pond, Pug Pond and several smaller ponds. At an early date there was a grist mill at the outlet of Round Pond. Among the group of settlers in this section was Stephinus Kelley, usually called Phin Kelley. His house was just beyond the bridge at the northern end of Long Pond. In early days, there was no road from his house to Red Hill Road. However, in the middle 1800's, when tourists became interested in climbing Red Hill, it seemed to those staying at the Center Harbor hotels a long way round to go to either end of Red Hill Road and then in to the Cook Road to ascend the hill. Permission was granted by Phin Kelley and Herbert Sturtevant for them to cut across their properties. This cut-off was used for about nineteen years; then Phin Kelley put a gate across his end and Herbert Sturtevant put a stump fence across the other end, so that the road would not become public property. At that time, Mr. James French was a Town Officer, and thought the road should belong to the Town of Moultonborough. Mr. Kelley would not accept the small sum of money offered for it, but said he would give the road to the Town if they would build a fence along both sides of the road. Jim French thought that would cost too much. There was much controversy about a fair price. Finally it became a court case which the owners of the land won. Satisfactory payments were made; the road was completed; and it was town property by 1891.

On our oldest maps a road is shown completely around Red Hill. This would be on our present maps, Red Hill Road, a section of Route 25, Sheridan Road and a section of Bean Road near Sandwich, the completion of the circle being in Sandwich. On the part called Red Hill Road one of the early farms was that of Tom Horne, who had come down from his father's home high on the Hill to build his own house and clear his own land. The farm extended from Long Pond to the top of the Hill. The lower land from above the house to the beach on the shore was cleared for hay and tillage, while much timber was brought down from the steep upper hill, and the high pastures were used for cattle. As his family grew, the original house was enlarged to the present house, still standing. Later, his son, Freeman J. Horne, and his wife, Ella (Brown) lived there and carried on the farm. People from this section and those coming down from Red Hill were accustomed in winter to drive their sleighs across the ice of Long Pond from this Horne farm to the old mill near Center Harbor, thereby saving some miles in their trip to the village. In summer when there was not too much water in the Horne brook, instead of crossing on the old plank bridge they would drive around the bridge, watering their horses in the brook on the way.

On present Route 25, below the southern peak of Red Hill, was the home of H. R. Bean. The house, still standing, is one of the earliest in Moultonborough, having been built in the 1760's. During the Revolution,

House built before Revolutionary War. Major Bean trained soldiers in field behind house. Later a tavern conducted by Mrs. A. M. Bean and son. Still standing on Route 25 at southern end of Red Hill.

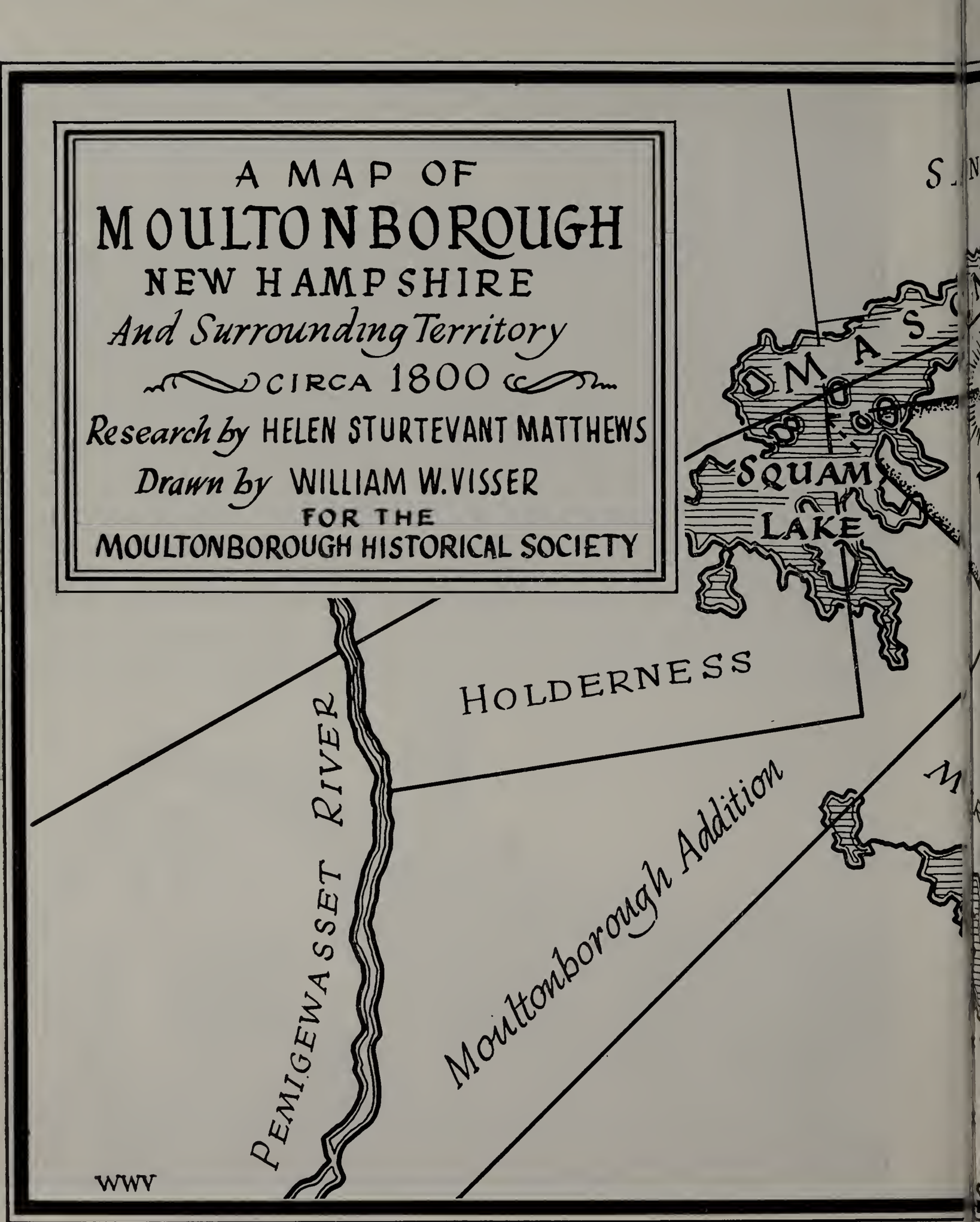
the field in back of the house was used as a training area for soldiers. The story is told that Major Bean one day, in the exuberance of the "parade", rode his horse through the house from rear to front entrances. Later this house was operated as a tavern by Mrs. A. M. Bean and son. The present owners discovered a secret cellar beneath the house which could be reached only through an easily-hidden trap-door in one of the small bedrooms.

In the valley below the eastern side of the Hill were several farms. The one just below the saddle was called Red Hill Farm. The house, still standing, was built in 1794 by Asa True, who was referred to as "the man from Virginia". In 1897, Mr. Thomas F. Sheridan purchased the property and later the road on that side of the Hill was given his name.

Near where Sheridan Road joins Route 25, Red Hill River flows rapidly down toward Lake Winnipesaukee, giving to this spot the name

Moultonborough Falls - the N. Berry house
still standing beside the Bridge over Red Hill River.

The Charles Cook house at Moultonborough Falls.


A MAP OF
MOULTONBOROUGH
NEW HAMPSHIRE
And Surrounding Territory
CIRCA 1800
Research by HELEN STURTEVANT MATTHEWS
Drawn by WILLIAM W. VISSER
FOR THE
MOULTONBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SQUAM
LAKE
HOLDERNESS
PEMIGEWASSET RIVER
Moultonborough Addition
WWV

NDWICH
N'S CLAIM
LINE
1768
Sandwich Addition
OSSIPEE MOUNTAINS
RED HILL
MOULTONBOROUGH
The Corner
MOULTONBOROUGH
Moultonborough Falls
Col. Moulton's
East Moultonborough
LONG POND
1st Neck
2nd Neck
Birch Hill
3rd Neck (7 miles long)
Melvin's Bay
WINNIPESAUKEE LAKE
Long Is.
TUFTONBOROUGH
WOLFEBOROUGH
REDITH

Irin Moulton Home, picture probably taken about 1880, summer boarders in foreground. This was site of earlier house, which burned, that was built in 1790 by Joseph Moulton, son of Gen. Moulton. Present house is the third house on this site, built as an exact replica of the second one, which also burned.

of Moultonborough Falls. Jonathan Moulton built a grist and saw mill here in 1765, which later expanded to include a carding and fulling mill. Gradually, as more and more settlers came to the southwestern part of the Town, this Moultonborough Falls became the second "center" of Moultonborough, and was named Moultonborough Center on 19th century maps even as late as 1882. At one time, it had, besides the mills, three stores, two hotels, a tannery, a currier's shop, a blacksmith shop, a sleigh and carriage maker, a saddle and harness maker, a printing office, shoe shops, and a cluster of homes.

The 1860 map shows a number of houses on the road between Moultonborough Falls and Center Harbor. By that time, descendants of Gen. Moulton had developed the prosperous Moulton farms in this section. Nathan Smith Moulton and his wife, Priscilla (Senter) were living in a house near what is now Redding Lane, and raising their family of seven children, who carried on the farms for another generation. The house now standing opposite Redding Lane was the home of their son, Alvin and his

wife, Emma (Kenerson), whose daughter, Hattie, married Myron Fletcher. On the other side of the road at the top of the hill overlooking Long Pond was the Irin Moulton house, later called the Mooney Place.

Home of B. F. and Lettice Brown, picture taken in 1868 still standing on Lake Shore Drive.

Near the saw mill at Long Pond were several houses. There was a small cabin where the Red Mill House now stands. Just above that toward the Moulton Farms was the property of Charles Blake. His house was on the mill side of the road; but since the present road cuts off a curve at this point, the old cellar-hole can be seen on the Kanasatka side. It has a large birch tree growing in the center.

Toward Center Harbor from the mill, the old road followed what is now Lake Shore Drive. At the top of the hill to the right was a road leading to farms along the southwestern shore of Long Pond. The earliest

houses were owned by M. Glidden, D. Kelley, J. B. Dow and Ad Parker. Later the Caverly farm was developed at the western end. This road, which is cut by Route 25, is today designated as Glidden Road. In the 1800's it was familiarly known as the Jack Road, probably because of the Jack Blackey house still standing at the part leading off Lake Shore Drive.

Beyond the Jack Road toward Center Harbor, at the head of Blackey's Cove, was the B. F. Brown (Frank Brown) house, still standing and occupied by descendants of Frank and Lettice (Graves) Brown. In 1855, this house was moved here from the tip-top of Long Island, fifteen miles across Lake Winnipesaukee. During the crossing, it was feared that the April ice would give away and the house would be lost. A call was sent out for help. Farmers, even from a distance, responded; and finally there were eighteen yoke of oxen pulling the house safely to its present site. At that time the road was much lower than it is now, so that the house stood on a knoll with a semi-circular driveway up to its front door.

Between Frank Brown's house and First Neck were four houses occupied by Jacob Graves, George Mallard, S. Kelley and J. Brown Dow. There were no houses on First Neck. Second Neck had one farm near the main road. Third Neck, more often called Moultonborough Neck, had several early settlers. This peninsular extending seven miles out into Lake Winnipesaukee was described on the first surveys as being rough, rocky ground. However, it became a successful farming area. In the earliest days, a family of Smiths were predominant, the names of Joseph, Joseph Jr., Josiah and Reuben Smith being listed. David Dow built his home there in 1814. It is still standing, and has been occupied by successive generations of Dows; its present owner, Miss Hattie A. Dow, having been born there in 1884. By 1860 there were over fifty families living on Moultonborough Neck, with two schools and the Town Farm located there.

Beyond Moultonborough Neck lies Long Island, the largest island in Lake Winnipesaukee. It was annexed to Moultonborough in 1799. In the early 1800's, it was a highly prosperous farming territory of about twelve hundred acres. Potatoes were a major crop, and seed potatoes are said to have been sent from there to be the predecessors of the now famous Idaho potatoes. There were two major farms of the earliest settlers. On one, John Boody was raising wheat of such excellent quality, that the Federal Government was his steady customer, buying large quantities in an effort to aid the farmers in western states to obtain high quality seed. The second early farm occupied the eastern end of Long Island. There John Brown was becoming famous for his development of **King**

One of the early Smith houses on Moultonboro Neck. Horace Smith was born there in 1844. House was struck by lightning and the ensuing fire burned all farm buildings as well as the house.

At the top of Schoolhouse Hill - Moultonborough Neck, the Ed Smith house where the Lake View Post Office was for many years. House was torn down and the planks and beams were used for foundation of roads built through swamps on Kona Farm.

Philip Corn, which had large eight-rowed grains and ears ranging from ten to thirteen inches in length. For fifty years he held the record in New Hampshire for corn per acre. John Brown's wife, Catherine (Follet) was also renowned for making excellent cheese in quantities of from six to seven hundred pounds per year. The Lamprey family joined these farmers and in 1839; Robert Lamprey gained acclaim by raising one hundred thirty-one bushels and seven quarts of shelled corn per acre. Later the Lamprey farmhouse was moved to Geneva Point.

Moultonborough Neck. This house, built by David Dow in 1814 is still standing and has been occupied by successive generations of his descendants throughout the one hundred and forty-nine years. Note at right of doorway the huge barrel for collecting rain water from house gutters. Not showing at left was a butcher shop. At left of picture are the poles where slaughtered animals were hung.

The story of transportation on the waters of Lake Winnipesaukee is a book in itself. The raft, the gundalow, the catamaran, the horseboat, the houseboat, the scow and the barge all played a large part in the life of the people. By the 20th century, the steamboats, side-wheeler and propeller, were well developed. The Long Island families of the Browns, the Lampreys, and the Blackstones were all outstanding in the boating from Moultonborough shores.

Brown's Wharf - Long Island - the first steamer "Mount Washington" moored at end of wharf. At the right of picture is the steamer "Lamprey", one of many boats owned by the Lamprey family. The hull of the "Lamprey" was that of the earlier steamer "Montclair", a side-wheeler which had been built on a sand beach on the southeast end of Long Island. A new engine with a propeller drive was installed when it was changed to the "Lamprey".

The use of steamboats in conjunction with the railroads promoted the tourist boom of the last half of the 19th century. It was at this time, that the large inns and hotels were built, and many homes became boarding houses or took "paying guests".

The Browns built their **Long Island Inn**, still standing. It was operated successfully by George K. Brown, son of John and Catherine, and later by his son, Harry. The slope from the Inn to the shore was cleared and an avenue lined by trees led down to the large wharf. Mail was delivered there five times a day by boat. **The Lady of the Lake** and the first **Mt. Washington** stopped at Brown's Wharf regularly on their trips around the lake.

About half way down Long Island was another hostelry named **Island Home**, but known locally as Blake's Hotel. It was flourishing in 1878 when it was operated by two cousins, one named Blake, and the other Lamprey. Although unused for many years it was still standing until 1962 when it was destroyed by fire.

In the third of Long Island nearest Moultonborough Neck the Wentworth families were early settlers. There was no bridge to the mainland until some time after 1864. In that year one of the Dows of Moultonborough Neck brought his bride (a Wentworth) across from Long Island in a rowboat, and then wheeled her personal possessions from the shore to their home in a wheelbarrow. The earliest bridge, which was made of just rock and gravel, proved unsatisfactory because of the strong current in the lake at this point. Sometime before 1900 it was replaced by a bridge with concrete piers, which in turn was supplanted in the 20th century by the present bridge.

Before leaving Long Island mention should be made of the fabulous Greene mansions, although the gay summer vacations spent in them were mostly after 1900. In 1891 the Lampreys and Browns sold land at the tip of the island to Mr. Frank E. Greene. There, just beyond Brown's Inn, he built the large three-storied house which is still standing, owned and still used for summer vacationing by his descendants. The house is a fine example of the charmingly elaborate decoration of the larger summer homes of the period. It also shows the ingenuity of contriving comforts in those days. There are clever methods for a water-supply which could include indoor plumbing, for putting gas under pressure in the basement to permit gas lighting throughout the house, and for refrigerating supplies for the large household of family, guests, and fourteen servants. Although all lumber and other materials, which were of the finest, were brought across the lake on barges, and although construction took two years, the house, barn and a nine room gatehouse were built at a cost of only $16,000.

About 1895, Dr. J. Alonzo Greene, who was well known for his popular blood and nerve medicine, **Greene's Nervura**, bought a strip of land next to the Blake Hotel. Both properties completely crossed the Island from the eastern to the western shore. There at the highest point toward the east Dr. Greene built **Roxmont**, which resembled a castle and in some ways looked like a fortress. The interior was intricate. Circular stairways led up to the tower rooms. One of these was the "Oriental" room, which was always kept locked, and had an air of mystery and romance, produced by its treasures from the Far East. It had a secret compartment in one wall, and its windows were the size of portholes. The entire castle was elaborately decorated and furnished. The grounds were formally landscaped, with lawns, ponds, fountains, large black cast iron

Roxmont - Long Island, built 1895 by Dr. Alonzo Green
burned 35 years later.

vases and gardens with blossoms for all growing seasons. The road that encircled Roxmont came to the town road from behind three enormous pillars made of field stones and connected by cast iron gates. Lanterns above the pillars were lighted at night. The gateway is all that is left of Roxmont today, as it burned about thirty-five years after it was built.

J. Alonzo Greene also owned and operated the Winnipesaukee Inn and the Roxmont Poultry Farm at Geneva Point on Moultonborough Neck.

At the opposite end of the Neck, toward Route 25, were two substantial farms owned by brothers, Nathaniel and Jonathan Greene. It may be assumed that the section where the Neck Road joins Route 25 took its name from them; — Greene's Corner. Jonathan was the father of Rolland Greene, who after returning to New Hampshire from Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he had lived for a time, took title to the Samuel P. Moulton home, and became owner and manager of it as one of the earlier board-

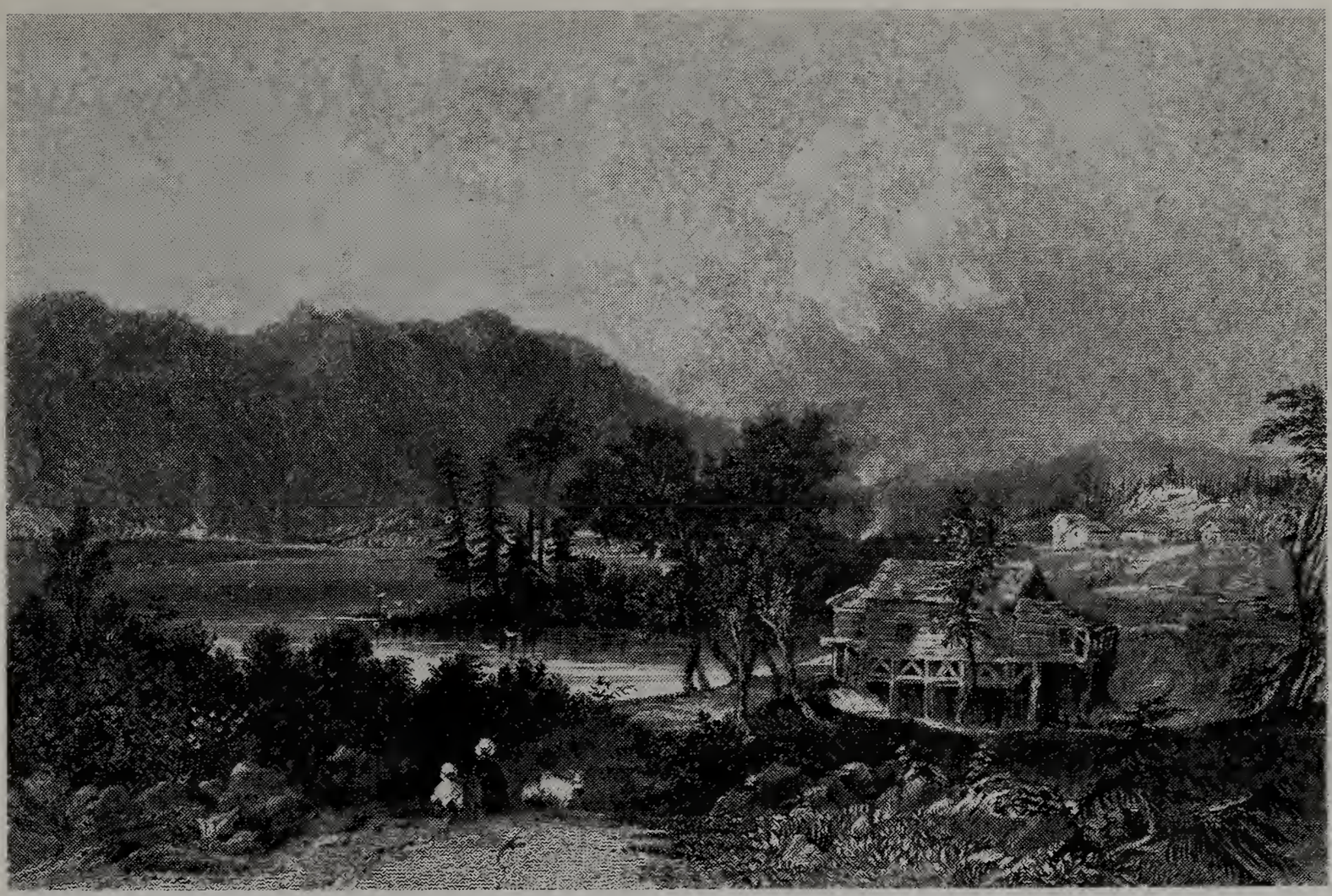
ing houses which he called **The Cambridge House**. After some years of operation the original house was destroyed by fire. It was replaced by the yellow house which stands today well back from, and to the north of, Route 25.

Other residences at Greene's Corner, some of them boarding houses and some private homes, were, like the Cambridge House, important units in a snug community that boasted a school and a Baptist Chapel.

The boarding house era of the late 1800's was to a large extent the result of improved transportation. Typically, the boarder was a city person who came to Moultonborough by train, lake-steamer, stage-coach, or livery-stable rig. He or she or they spent two weeks at their favorite boarding house and then returned to the city. Frequently, the same people appeared each year at the same place at about the same date. One such group of repeaters called itself the "Hungry Eight". This name implies a certain zest for life which was surely typical of the younger set among the summer guests. As they entertained themselves along the highway and in the villages they provided a considerable amount of fun for the permanent residents.

All of southwest Moultonborough grew rapidly during the last half of the 19th century. A map printed in 1890 shows more than twice the number of houses indicated on a map of the same area published in 1860. Several houses had been added to the section near the mill at Long Pond.

The mill had had several owners. Originally granted to Benning Moulton, a son of Gen. Moulton, it was purchased by the Senters in 1793 for 100 pounds. Sometime during the first half of the 19th century it was purchased by John Coe for $1800. He and his son, Curtis Coe, built a house nearby in 1851. Later they replaced it with the present Red Mill House, in its earliest form just the main house, without gables, and the stable. The later addition on the stable was moved from Meredith, where it had been a store. Early papers show that 20 acres of common land each side of the mill were held by the town. The road was much lower, and the hills much more steep at that time. It is recorded that in 1867, Curtis Coe was ordered to remove buildings and logs from town property. Between 1880 and sometime in the 1890's the mill was owned and operated by Frank Brown and his son, Fred. At that time the supply of logs was floated in Long Pond, each log being "snaked" across the road to the mill as needed. The children of the neighborhood delighted in being permitted to ride the log in this process. Fred Brown built a house just beyond the mill toward Center Harbor, in which he and his wife, Hattie (Paine) lived for a few years. It was sold to the Goodriches, who operated it as a boarding house named **Cluster Cove.** Later it burned. James W., Charles, and Fred



Sawmill at Long Pond, picture published in England for the Moultonborough Proprietors in 1838.

Goodrich were the last owners of the mill in the 19th century. However, it was operated by them and other owners for another quarter of a century. Unfortunately, during the many years of the mill's use the sawdust was permitted to wash down the brook. To this day there is a heavy deposit of sawdust under Winnipesaukee at the mouth of the brook.

From the mill to the Center Harbor line the settlement had markedly increased by 1890, with twenty-six homes listed there. By that time, Graves Point had become First Neck on the maps, although it was often referred to orally as The Point. Today it is known as Alpine Park. In 1891 there were only four houses there, — Pinecroft (Prof. Stevens) — Meadow-whistler (Booth), — San Marco (Bill Butterfield), — and Joe Grant's. By about 1895 there was a road down which one could drive, leading to a bridge to the island in Blackey's Cove, which was then called Cambridge Island. There was also a camp for Harvard students on the island off the tip of the Point. The northeastern side of this mile-long neck of land was cleared at that time, and many quarts of blueberries were picked there.

Universalist Church, built during 19th century on site west of the present Center Harbor Post Office. Before 1900 it was used as a school house. Moved to present site when state road was relocated in 1954. Now used for commercial purposes.

Near the Center Harbor line, but on the Moultonborough side, there were a cooper-shop, Edward's Livery Stable, the Emery Blacksmith Shop, the Neal-Wentworth Blacksmith and Boat Shop, and the Universalist Church.

Blacksmith shops, being an essential for earliest settlements, were scattered throughout Moultonborough. The one owned by Steve Wentworth and George Neal was perhaps larger than many of them. It was located on the site of the present Center Harbor Post Office. One end of the shop was used for the building of double-end punts. In the other half both horses and oxen were shod. There was a huge built-in sling in which an ox was hoisted so that he was completely off the flooring with all four feet available for shoeing.

All of this section of Moultonborough naturally was closely associated with Center Harbor. As that village grew and as activities at Moultonborough Falls declined, the third, and present, "center" of Moultonborough developed northeast of the Falls at Moultonborough Corner.

Moultonborough Corner

This spot from which three roads lead to all parts of Moultonborough is a natural focus for town activities. We know little of this section in the first years after Col. Moulton brought surveyors here, but undoubtedly there were settlers at or near this point.

The northern boundary of Moultonborough when granted in 1763 followed the curve of Mason's Claim as run by the earliest state surveyors. On maps printed about 1800 it is shown that this curve was resurveyed by a Robert Fletcher, Esq., in 1788. In that year the state fixed the boundary between Moultonborough and Sandwich. At the same time a small amount of unclaimed land between Sandwich and Tuftonborough was added to Moultonborough. All grants given by the Masonian Proprietors were for **land** only. Representation in **government** could be issued only by the state. The battle between Sandwich and Moultonborough over land and representation is recorded in State Papers in detailed and vituperative language which seems amusing to the friendly neighbors of today. In 1788 the first representative from the district, which included Moultonborough, Sandwich, Tuftonborough and Wolfeborough, was elected. He was Nathan Hoit of Moultonborough. Our town has been ably represented ever since that date.

There were no counties in New Hampshire before 1770. From 1771-1773 Moultonborough was in Rockingham County. Then, until 1840, it was a part of Strafford County. In 1840 Carroll and Belknap Counties were formed from the northern portion of Strafford County.

By 1840 there was a significant settlement at Moultonborough Corner. The Town House was built about 1834. Previously town meetings had been held in private homes. The town pound was beside the Town House, and there was a schoolhouse nearby. In its earliest days the Town House was used not only for general assemblies, but also for Congregational Church services. In a few years, however, the present church building was erected, its first site being just south of the Town House. Congregational services were held alternately there and in the Shaw Church in East Moultonborough. The Methodist Society was organized in 1840 by Rev. J. S. Loveland and a small church was built at the corner just north of the village, where the present Route 109 turns toward Melvin Village. Not long after that the Congregational Society was disbanded, and the

church building near the Town House was sold to the Methodist Society and services under that denomination were held there.

The former Methodist building was made into a dwelling occupied by a Dr. Judkins and his family. About 1883 his place and practice were sold to Dr. Frank S. Lovering, who married soon afterwards, and brought up his family in this house, which is today **The Country Fare.**

Across the road and a little toward Melvin Village was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Moulton, which later was known as the Dr. Cotton place.

Near the triangle formed by the three roads at the Corner were later houses associated with the name of Morse. Dr. Caleb Morse, who died in 1843, is known to have been one of the first doctors in Moultonborough. In 1860 a Dr. Mason had an office at the southern part of the village.

Behind the Town House today are two cellar-holes which are thought to be where the Bartlett and Leach families lived. The latter family evidently suffered tragedy, as news items have been found which state that "a bear took Leach boy near Elmer Berry's", and that another Leach child was drowned in a well.

In 1851 James E. French, Sr., moved here from Melvin Village. From then until beyond the turn of the century he and his son, James French, Jr., played a very active part in the economic and political activities of the town.

In 1869 James E. French, Sr., deeded property to a Mrs. Tower, and the house standing at that spot is thought to have been the first house built on what is now known as Holland Street. By 1860 there were eleven houses on that road which offered fertile land for extensive farming, and magnificent mountain views to people who could afford to build large and impressive homes.

The road that leads northeast from the Moultonborough Corner toward Bennett's Corner was of a much later date, and was called simply "the New Road" for many years. However, in that direction perhaps a mile away, was one of the outstanding farms of the 1800's, owned and operated by Harrison and Julia Morrill. Their only son was Dr. Leonard Morrill, who settled in Center Harbor. The Morrill farm buildings burned in 1902. Nearby the spot where they stood are three cellar-holes, one of which indicates the house of "Granny" Putnam. She derived her income from making stockings for Mr. Flanders, who ran the store at the Corner near the Methodist Church. This store was later operated by a Mr. Freese, and is still standing, now known as Tilton's Store.

Methodist Church - Moultonborough Corner
after it was moved in 1866 to present site.

There were two other general stores; one that stood just north of the present church site; the other being today **The Old Country Store.** It is interesting to note that the Post Office alternated between these two stores depending upon whether a Democratic or Republican administration was in federal control.

At the present site of the Methodist Church there was originally a home occupied by families named Morse and Peavey. This house burned in 1860. Six years later the Methodist Church was moved there from its original site south of the Town House, and a new vestry was built beneath it. At that time the store north of the church was operated by Warren and Thurston, and James French, Jr., had just succeeded his father in the management of the Country Store. In 1884 Jim French, as he was commonly called, retired from merchandising, perhaps because of pressing political activities. The store was operated by Hamlin Huntress for several years and taken over by George H. Richardson just before 1900. Jim French, however, retained ownership of the building and had a law office in the part now used for the Post Office. For many years the post office area in the store was at the left of the main entrance with letter-boxes at a right angle to the front wall. In the larger room of the second story of this store it is thought that meetings were held by the Masonic Star Lodge, No. 17, which was organized in Moultonborough in 1804. In the smaller room on the west end was the town library in the last part of the 19th century.

In 1800, only seventeen years after the land grants, Moultonborough and Sandwich had joined in forming a Social Library. The association lasted for ten years, when the towns separated, each to have its Social Library incorporated by an act of the Legislature. No records of Moultonborough library have been found before those of the 1897 Town Report. In this report it is stated that the library then consisted of 362 volumes, of which 125 had been donated by the New Hampshire State Library, 218 had been purchased and 19 were gifts. $200 was appropriated that year. The first book listed was **Little Women**, by Louisa May Alcott. In earlier days there had been no expense incurred for a library room and the librarian's services had been donated. In 1897 S. E. Morse, the first librarian recorded, was paid a salary of $24.00 per year, and $24.00 was paid to James E. French for rent of the room above his store, wood and lights included. Mr. French was treasurer of the library for many years. He lived in the large white house across the street and further south from his store. In the adjourning barn was a finished room where tramps were lodged for a fee of 50c per night, including one meal. This fee was paid by the town, as it was state law that a town must provide lodging if a tramp applied after four o'clock.

The boarding house and stage coach era of the last half of the 19th century contributed to the rapid development of Moultonborough Corner. Before the coming of railroads the town had good fortune to be located on the thoroughfare to the White Mountains. One observer of that time recorded that it was not unusual to see five or six coaches loaded with passengers and baggage and drawn by four or six horses pass daily. There was an inn where the library now stands, owned by A. P. Jaclard. The present Grange Hall was **The Red Hill House**, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Richardson. The Moultonborough Grange was organized in 1893, and when they took over the building, the Richardsons continued their business in another house.

Stage Coach at Post Office - Moultonborough Corner.

There was a stage route with regular runs from the wharf at Center Harbor to the village of Ossipee and return. From Moultonborough Corner this route followed the road now called Holland Street to Sandwich Lower Corner and from there on the old road to Ossipee. The prowess of the driver of the stagecoach was said to have been judged by the speed made by his horses in going down the hill and around the S-turn on Holland Street. Observers came to call this S-turn **Dead Man's Curve**. From Center Harbor to Ossipee was a long day's drive, and the horses were rested for a day and two nights before the return trip.

Along the stage routes were many inns and boarding houses, several of which were used by the stage companies for a change of horses. Two such stops were on the road between Moultonborough Corner and Center Harbor. One was the home of Arnold M. Graves, the old house and the dilapidated red barn still standing on opposite sides of Lake Shore Drive. The other was the tavern conducted by Mrs. A. M. Bean and Son near Red Hill, where Major Bean had once trained his soldiers. On the Melvin Village route were two popular boarding houses, one conducted by James C. Pitman, and the other by Mr. and Mrs. Will Robinson, who had purchased the Ambrose Homestead.

There was also much livery-stable activity with rigs carrying freight as well as passengers from steamboats on the lake to the outlying boarding houses.

Moultonborough Corner looking southwest before 1900.

Thus by 1900 Moultonborough Corner, with its stores, post office, church, library, Grange, physicians, a lawyer, and its seat of town government, was firmly established as the "center" of Moultonborough.

Life In Moultonborough

From various published sources the rise and fall of the population of our town can be determined. The dates and the numbers of people living here are as follows:

1771	197
1820	1279
1840	1800
1855	1748
1889	1300

The decrease in population from 1840 has been attributed partially to war service. Since its earliest days the citizens of this village have taken part in all wars in which their country has been involved. Other factors which drew young people away were the call of cities and the lure of the west.

Early explorers and settlers evidenced great courage and fortitude. Erastus P. Jewell, born in Sandwich in 1837, in his lecture entitled **The Beginnings of New England** states that "prior to 1800, rye, corn, beans, and squashes were about all that planters raised." He explained further that "game, fish, and (wild) strawberries added to their bill of fare." We know also that cattle reached New Hampshire as early as 1633, shipped in via Portsmouth by Captain John Mason. If we add potatoes, brought to Londonderry in 1719 by Scotch-Irish settlers, wheat and barley, which became annual crops in New Hampshire in 1746, blueberries, which grew abundantly here, apples, first planted in the Red Hill area by Israel Glines before the Revolution, and syrup and sugar produced from maple trees, we have a good idea of what the homesteader in Moultonborough ate, — when and if he could get it.

When we ask what the homesteader did about clothing, we find that domestic wool and flax were in use. The first flock of sheep in southwest Moultonborough was brought there by Hosea Sturtevant in 1783. Mr. Joseph P. Walker of Concord, N. H., speaking before the New Hampshire Board of Agriculture at the Weirs in 1894, gave a detailed and delightful account of what flax meant to the homesteader. He tells us that flax was sown in May, harvested in August, subjected to "breaking", "scutching", and "heckling" in the fall, and spun in the winter. Sheets, table cloths, and under garments were the end products enjoyed by the homesteader's entire family. Coarser cloth was made from the tow. As the author put it "this furnished the men and boys both trousers and an unforgettable irritant." Apparently from patriotic motives as well as for economic reasons the homesteader used cotton to a very limited extent in the earlier years.

This mention of wool and flax leads us to the wife of the homesteader. Through family records kept by her descendants we know that in 1837 when Lydia Horne left her home half way up Red Hill to become the wife of Herbert Sturtevant, who lived at the bottom of the Hill, she entered upon a life that was busy, happy, robust, and compelling. During the early years of her married life she spun and wove her table linen and all other cloth for household and personal use of her family. Also she wove the woolen cloth which was required for warmer clothing, and for good measure, spun her own thread and wove twenty-eight yards of woolen cloth for sale. The selling of this made possible the purchase of a brass kettle, which she was still using in 1901. In addition she was busy with the usual tasks of what has been described as the woman's normal twenty-four hour day. She carried wood and water, cooked for her family of eight children and for members of the older generation who lived with her, and acted as doctor and nurse at home and among her neighbors. Her life was undoubtedly typical of the women of that era in Moultonborough.

As to the man of the family, we must agree that by the time our town was settled he had a considerable body of fact and a very practical assortment of tools at his disposal. The lore of the frontier was his by experience or for the asking. He could trap and hunt, chop and saw, plant and harvest. He had cattle, horses, sheep, and swine. His tools seem a bit limited, but he made out with his wooden plow, which was reinforced with iron at the points of greatest stress; his harrow made from a forked tree; his wooden shovel; his forks, axes, chains and scythes, supplied by the local blacksmith; his hand rakes; his homemade carts, drags and sleds; and his hammer, saw and chisel. At his disposal also were sawmills, gristmills, and cider mills. To build his house, his barn and his outbuildings; to clear and farm his fields; to preserve and expand his pastures; to cut his hay, his timber, and his cord wood; and to harvest his crops he relied upon himself and his family and the exchange of work with his neighbors.

In the earlier days Dover and Portsmouth were the shopping centers where he exchanged vegetables, dried apples, butter, pork, and pelts for groceries and other family needs. The trip required three days and, we believe, was made at the most twice a year. In early winter advantage was taken of the ice on Winnipesaukee to shorten the mileage. He financed his business by barter, cash being little used.

After 1840 something of a boom came to Moultonborough farmers. Small horses, scrub cattle, runty pigs, and nondescript sheep gave way to standard breeds and, hence, larger animals. The expression "cash crops" came into use and there was demand for materials and services. Better

roads and more miles of them required horses, carts and labor. The drover called at the farms to buy cattle, which he sold in Brighton, Massachusetts. At times the local butcher bid against the drover, for beef cattle were in demand. Logging became profitable. Lee's Mills were reaching the height of their activities. In other sections farmers were taking logs to local sawmills. Freeman Horne, for example, cut his timber from Red Hill during the winter, hauling his logs to the ice-covered bay in Long Pond at the mouth of his brook. After the ice had melted and on a day when the wind blew from north to south, he towed his raft of logs to the Goodrich Mill. His towboat was his rowboat, with himself at the oars. All of these activities when superimposed on the farmers' seven-day week seem rather exacting; but as the saying went and still goes, "there was money in it."

Social life seems to have been a family affair. Father, mother and the children went together to the house raising, the sugaring off, the husking, or the spelling bee. On quieter evenings at home they played games together, sang around the family organ, popped corn and roasted apples and chestnuts at the fireplace. In the later period, after stores came to Moultonborough, Center Harbor, and Meredith, a summer shopping trip with, perhaps, an exchange of books at the library furnished adequate excitement and change. It began in the morning with a hunt for long-unused shoes and stockings, and ended in late afternoon with a hot, dusty, sticky ride home. Choir practice and church services rounded out their week.

It was a hard life, but an independent one; and the close-knit family and community life brought contentment and happiness. Then, as now, Moultonborough was a good place in which to live.

The material for this booklet was compiled by Helen Sturtevant Matthews from manuscripts on file with the Moultonborough Historical Society. These manuscripts were researched and written by the following members of the Society:

Elizabeth Fone
Marion Goodwin
Margaret Lamprey
Stewart Lamprey
Mildred Larson
Helen Matthews
Nathan Moulton
Nina Moulton
Martha Oliver
Horace Richardson
Cora Roth
Grace Severance
Ethel Smith
Edith Sturtevant
Leon Sturtevant
Virginia Sturtevant
Adele Taylor

Anyone interested in more detail of any district may read the manuscripts on file by making an appointment with the Historian of the Society, who is at present Mrs. Katharine Quirk.

The following members have researched material and presented it orally:

Edith Banfield
Gladys Bickford
Floris Goudey
Elizabeth Hammond
Elena Jones
Robert Lamprey
Wilfred Riley
Verna Smith
Arthur Solomon

Material has been drawn also from **The History of Carroll County,** published in 1889, from **State Papers**, and from talks given to the Society by:

Irving Brown of Center Harbor
Solon Colby of Meredith
Fred Goldthwaite of Sandwich
Gardiner Greene of Laconia
Carroll Lamprey of Tuftonborough
Pauline Merrill of New Hampton

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Since Moultonborough Historical Society is only in its sixth year, the material already collected is limited and incomplete. The Society would appreciate the contribution in writing of any data to expand its collection.

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